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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji KANEKO et al.

Mailstop Issue Fee  
Group Art Unit: 2878

Appln. No : 09/938,663 ✓

**Examiner: Seung SOHN**  
**Confirmation No.: 2500**

Filed : August 27, 2001

For : A SURVEYING INSTRUMENT HAVING AN OPTICAL DISTANCE  
METER AND AN AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM, AND A SURVEYING  
INSTRUMENT HAVING A DETACHABLE AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on January 2, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these

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claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned  
at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenji KANEKO et al.

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March 15, 2004  
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